

# STARS AND STRIPES

Monday, May 19, 2003

A news digest for U.S. forces serving overseas

## As their war ends, Marines share stories

BY RICK SCAVETTA

*Stars and Stripes*

CAMP MATILDA, Kuwait — Like many Marines who fought in Iraq, Lance Cpl. John Burling had his share of ups and downs.

He heard news of his son's birth and watched his best buddy die.

For many Marines returning from Iraq to camps in Kuwait, memories of combat are fresh in their minds. But after some sleep, showers and fast food, their thoughts quickly shift to returning home.

Burling, 19, of Jacksonville, Fla., is somewhere in between.

On April 7, his unit, Company B, 4th Assault Amphibious Battalion, was in a defensive position by a bridge near Baghdad. Lance Cpl. Andrew Aviles stopped by Burling's amphibious assault vehicle to chat for a few minutes before heading to his own track parked just ahead.

"I told him I'd see him later that night," Burling said.

Then artillery explosions boomed steadily closer to the Marines' tracked

vehicles. A shell landed directly on top of Aviles' vehicle.

"It blew him outside the ramp. I saw it happen," Burling said. "I thought another round was going to hit me."

Burling and several Marines rushed forward, hoping that Aviles and another crewmember survived the blast. But Burling found Aviles' bloodied body on the ground. The other Marine also died in the attack.

"He had an academic scholarship to Florida State," Burling said of Aviles. "He was a smart guy, much too young to be killed."

In Baghdad, Burling later watched Marines tear down a statue of former Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein, a sight broadcast worldwide.

Earlier this month, he received a message from the Red Cross. His wife, Valerie, gave birth to a son, John. He's hoping to be home with them by next month.

Marines like Burling killed time at Camp Matilda, a desert outpost about 25 miles north of Kuwait City, chatting about their experiences in combat over cheeseburgers and pizza. The camp's chapel is now home to a Pizza Hut and a Burger King.

"Actually, we were dreaming about those buses," Lance Cpl. Miguel Garcia, 19, of Roscoe, Texas, said as he pointed to a fleet of coaches parked at the camp's entrance. "Then those buses taking us to planes."

But other than tragedy, what memories will the Marines take home with them? What stories will be told to grandchildren years from now?

Foremost, they recalled the humor found in extreme situations, such as the Marine who stripped bare atop his amphibious track to catch a shower in a thunderstorm.

Sometimes they even fought in their skivvies.

During a midnight fire mission, Pfc. Michael Scott, 26, of St. Louis, and fellow artillery troops hopped naked to their 155 mm howitzers.

"We didn't have time to get dressed," Scott said.

One night, Lance Cpl. Bryce Jacobs, 20, of Howell, N.J., set out to relieve himself. Gunfire erupted and someone shouted to hit the dirt.

"There I was, crouching down with my pants around my ankles, pointing my M16," Jacobs said. "The guys were throwing dirt balls at my butt."

They'll also recall acts of camaraderie — the Marine who gave away his last cigarette or dip of tobacco to a buddy.

And they will remember the heart-breaking reality of postwar Iraq, the mobs of begging children clustered around patrols and schoolrooms filled with Iraqi weapons and ammunition.

Army troops could only shake their heads when they recalled odd things Marines did in combat. While waiting to fight, some Marines tested their flak vests by stabbing each other with knives, according to Army Pfc. Christopher Montgomery, 20, of Slippery Rock, Pa.

"They found out a knife goes through it," Montgomery said. "We did dumb stuff, too. It comes with boredom."

Care packages arrived recently stuffed with toothpaste and toilet paper, items they could have used during the fighting last month but now are overcrowding their gear. Still, it was those little tastes from home that helped them through the final weeks.

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## Marines withdraw to Kuwait, anxiously await return home

BY RICK SCAVETTA

*Stars and Stripes*

CAMP MATILDA, Kuwait — Marines who fought in Iraq continued to withdraw to Kuwait this week to await shipment home.

They leave behind a contingent of Marines in southern Iraq to help with humanitarian missions.

After enduring weeks on the front lines, followed by patrols through postwar chaos, hundreds of Marines quietly climbed from convoys of trucks and buses on Saturday. Some convoyed more than 12 hours to get back to this desert camp, 25 miles north of Kuwait City — nearly the end of their odyssey.

Some lucky Marines are flying home. Others are boarding ships for the slow float back to the United States. Some troops headed east through the Pacific were told to expect a stop in Australia. Those headed west may have port calls in the Mediterranean.

"The Marine Corps' job was to kick in the door and let the Army move in," said Capt. Eric Dominijanni, of Queens, N.Y. "That part is done. Now our job is to get home."

No sooner had the words left his lips, when a convoy carrying troops and tanks from the Army's 1st Squadron, 1st U.S. Cavalry rumbled north along Highway 80 toward Iraq. The 1st Armored Division troops are headed toward Baghdad and central Iraq.

The Marine Corps is removing most of its assault forces from southern Iraq this week, to include tanks and armored personnel carriers, said Lt. Erik Knapp, a Corps spokesman.

"Those are combat units," Knapp said. "They show too much aggressiveness for a peacekeeping force," Knapp said. "We're leaving behind some [light armored vehicles] for a quick reaction force."

Five Marine infantry battalions will remain in Iraq as the ground combat element of the Marine expeditionary brigade. They will operate from five cities in southern Iraq: Karbala, Najaf, Samawah, Hillah and Dawaniyah.

From those hubs, the Marines will continue to help rebuild Iraq's infrastructure, to include water, sewer and electrical systems, Knapp said.

They have also been supporting local police and fire departments.

Meanwhile, Marines in southern Iraq remained busy over the weekend, mostly organizing humanitarian assistance, providing security and trying to keep the power on.



RICK SCAVETTA/Stars and Stripes

**Members of the 2nd Marine Division leave Iraq and head to Kuwait, where they will await return to the United States. While some Marines will fly home, others will sail home aboard ship. Five Marine infantry battalions will remain in southern Iraq as the ground combat element of the Marine expeditionary brigade.**

■ The 2nd Marine Division obtained 8,000 blackboards, 120 school desks and building materials from a former regime warehouse to support schools throughout their zone of operations.

■ The 7th Marine Regiment in Karbala met with local leaders Saturday to discuss a police force. They also brought fuel to a local distributor to counter black-market gasoline pumps, and assessed three city hospitals for medical aid.

■ In Najaf, Marines are providing election guidance, helping the local electrical plant with fuel and distributing food.

■ In Rumaythah, 5th Marine Regiment troops spent two days training a police force, distributed medical supplies and are starting repairs on a school.

■ In Kut, the 23rd Marine Regiment is assisting customs inspectors and border patrols along the Iranian border.

■ In Nasiriyah, where troops fought a bloody battle March 23, the 25th Marine Regiment is helping distribute 26 tons of food donated by the Romanian government.

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## Marine Corps helicopter reported down in Iraq

WASHINGTON — A Marine Corps transport helicopter crashed Monday in central Iraq near Karbala with at least four people aboard, and there were no indications of survivors, Pentagon officials said.

Another servicemember drowned while trying to rescue the crew of the downed helicopter, a Pentagon official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The Marine CH-46 Sea Knight helicopter crashed into a canal southeast of Karbala, the official said. Lt. Col. David Lapan, a Pentagon spokesman, said there was no indication whether or not it was downed by hostile action.

The Sea Knight is a workhorse helicopter used by the Navy and Marine Corps to move cargo or troops. It normally operates with a crew of four and has been in service for more than three decades.

## Army: Soldier died of heart attack in Afghanistan

RALEIGH, N.C. — A 31-year-old soldier has died of a heart attack while on deployment in Afghanistan, the Department of Defense announced Monday.

Sgt. 1st Class John E. Taylor of Wichita Falls, Texas, died after physical training Saturday in Kabul, the announcement said.

Taylor was assigned to 1st Battalion, 3rd Special Forces Group based at Fort Bragg.

## Marine killed in Iraq

KUWAIT CITY — A truck accident killed one Marine and injured another southeast of Al Samawah.

The Marines were traveling in a large transport truck to a fuel pumping station in support of civil military operations, according to a U.S. Central Command statement.

Both were flown by helicopter to an Army field hospital. One Marine died during the flight. The other was listed in stable condition.

The Marines' names and units are being withheld until their families are notified. The cause of the accident is under investigation.

## U.S. soldiers ambushed

AL HUWAYJAH, Iraq — U.S. soldiers on patrol about 25 miles west of Kirkuk were ambushed late Sunday night and found themselves in a fierce battle that left at least 16 enemy fighters dead and one American soldier wounded.

"That's the worst fight anyone's been in in Kirkuk," said the patrol commander, Capt. Mario Soto, 26, of Atlanta. "When there's a 30- to 40-minute fight with A-10s, Abrams tanks and Bradley Fighting Vehicle support, the war is not over."

A scout patrol of seven Humvees from the 1st Battalion, 63rd Armored Regiment had pulled to either side of the road, doused its lights and was waiting to see if there was any activity in the area.

Townpeople had complained that loyalists to Saddam Hussein had been threatening them with weapons and stealing cars.

As the patrol waited silently, a Chevrolet Impala approached from the rear. Soldiers stopped it and found men with loaded AK-47 rifles.

As they were questioning the men, three Toyota pickups approached one after the other from the front. The American patrol was bathed in light from headlights, front and rear.

Suddenly, heavy firing erupted from a complex of buildings about 350 yards away. As he returned fire with a machine gun mounted on a Humvee, one soldier was hit with a bullet in the abdomen.

The wounded soldier was later evacuated to an Army surgical center, where his condition was reported as good. He was not identified pending notification of his family.

As the battle raged, an A-10 Warthog swooped in and fired a laser-guided missile and its cannon at the complex. Tanks and Bradleys appeared and took up the fight.

When it was over, soldiers found 16 bodies of enemy fighters.

The Americans also took 15 prisoners from the vehicles that had approached them before the fighting started.

## Brooklyn soldier killed in Iraq weapon mishap

WASHINGTON — A man from Brooklyn, N.Y., was killed in Iraq when another soldier's gun discharged while they were cleaning their weapons, officials said Monday.

Army Spec. Rasheed Sahib, 22, was fatally injured Sunday in the town of Balad, Iraq. The Pentagon said a bullet struck Sahib in the chest.

The other soldier was not named, and the incident is under investigation.

The victim was assigned to the 20th Field Artillery Regiment, 4th Infantry Division, based at Fort Hood, Texas.

From staff and wire reports

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Capt. Eric Dominijanni, 30, of Queens, N.Y., was surprised when his mom sent Italian favorites. Her package, which arrived in Iraq, had hot Calabrese salami, Bustello coffee and a single-shot espresso maker.

"That woman is great," Dominijanni said. "She is getting a car [or] something when I get home."

His unit, the 3rd Assault Amphibious Battalion from Twentynine Palms, Calif., faced "urban cleanup," the lawless chaos that follows the initial assault.

"We saw droves of soldiers in civilian clothes," Dominijanni said. "They had dropped their uniforms at the side of the road."

But nearer to Baghdad, the fighting intensified. Small squads of enemy troops would fire a few shots and then surrender, Dominijanni said. None appeared eager to fight. Locals were painting Arabic writing over Saddam's wall-size portraits.

"When we went into the cities, everyone was cheering," Dominijanni said. "It made me realize that we were doing the right thing."

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## News tracker: What's new with old news

### States

**Smoking ban protest:** Some upstate New York bar and restaurant owners plan to turn off Quick Draw lottery game machines Monday to protest the passage of a law that virtually bans smoking in any place of business in the state.

Those participating in the protest said that, by depriving the state of revenue from the Quick Draw game, they hoped to publicize concerns that the smoking ban will hurt business at bars and restaurants.

The state legislation, signed into law by Gov. George Pataki in March and scheduled to go into effect in July, would end smoking in many places where it is allowed despite the state's 1989 Clean Indoor Air Act.

**Memorial Mass:** More than 400 people Sunday mourned the 19 illegal immigrants who died while trapped in a stifling trailer in Texas during a smuggling operation.

Bishop Joe Vazquez celebrated a Mass for the victims.

Jeannette Morales, the 18-year-old widow of Juan Jose Morales, said she last spoke to her 23-year-old husband five days before he was found dead.

"He just told me he was going to come home and happy Mother's Day," the Houston woman said as a tear rolled down her right cheek.

Meanwhile, authorities have made more arrests in their investigation of a smuggling operation that packed dozens of illegal immigrants into a sweltering trailer last week, resulting in the deaths of 19 individuals, federal prosecutors said Monday.

No other details were immediately available.

Investigators believe the smuggling operation is part of a larger organization.

**Racial profiling banned:** The new head of Alabama's law enforcement agency has formally banned racial profiling by state troopers and added a new procedure for reviewing motorists' complaints.

The policy, unveiled last week, prohibits troopers from stopping motorists based solely on ethnicity, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, religion, economic status, age or cultural group, and mandates annual training.

### Business

**Enron charges:** Andrew S. Fastow, the former chief financial officer accused of fueling Enron Corp.'s downfall, will be arraigned Monday regarding new charges released against him earlier this month.

Fastow, 41, was indicted in October on 78 counts of fraud, money laundering, conspiracy and obstruction of justice. On Monday he was to be arraigned on new charges of insider trading, filing false tax forms and conspiracy to falsify books and records in an expanded indictment unveiled May 1.

### World

**Call for arrests:** The chief U.N. tribunal prosecutor urged Serbian authorities Monday to arrest and extradite Bosnian Serb wartime commander Gen. Ratko Mladic and more than a dozen other fugitive war crimes suspects.

During her meetings with top Serbian leaders, Carla Del Ponte insisted, as she has done during previous visits, that Mladic, charged by The Hague tribunal with genocide during the 1992-1995 Bosnian war, is hiding in Serbia.

Serbian authorities repeatedly have denied that Mladic is in Serbia.

**Meeting of Koreans:** A South Korean delegation arrived in North Korea on

Monday for talks to promote joint economic projects, but South Korea's prime minister warned the projects could be canceled if the North escalates tensions over its nuclear ambitions.

The four days of talks in the North Korea capital of Pyongyang were to center on linking cross-border railways and building an industrial complex in the isolated North.

"We will continue to develop inter-Korean relations as long as the North Korean nuclear issue does not deteriorate," Prime Minister Goh Kun said. "[But] it is inevitable that inter-Korean exchanges and cooperation will be hurt if the North Korean nuclear issue deteriorates."

**Hostages' fate uncertain:** There were conflicting reports Monday about the fate of 15 European hostages held in Algeria, with one newspaper saying their Islamic captors had already set them free, but another reporting negotiations were still under way.

The 15 hostages include 10 Germans, four Swiss and a Dutchman. They were abducted in mid-February while on an adventure tour in a remote region of the Sahara desert.

Algerian authorities refused to comment on the reports.

**Kashmir violence:** Suspected Islamic militants axed to death six members of a shepherd's family overnight in a remote mountain village in the Indian state of Jammu-Kashmir, police said Monday.

The attackers killed four women and two children, the officer said. The shepherd was missing and was believed to have been taken away by the attackers, the officer said.

Police said the shepherd's family was targeted by suspected guerrillas because two of his sons are in the Indian army and one is a policeman.

**Murder charges reduced:** Charges against a Japanese photographer who carried an Iraqi battlefield souvenir into Jordan that exploded and killed an airport security guard there were reduced from murder to unintentional homicide, a Jordanian official said Sunday.

Jordan's military prosecutor altered the charges against Hiroki Gomi of the Japanese newspaper Mainichi Shimbun after the family of the slain guard, Ali al-Sarhan, chose not to pursue a murder conviction, the official said.

### War on terrorism

**Suspects released on bail:** A judge in Madrid ordered the release on bail Monday of two North Africans who were arrested along with 14 others suspected of planning attacks for al-Qaida. All 16 have now been released.

The 16 men were arrested on Jan. 24 in Barcelona and other northeast Spanish cities on suspicion of belonging to groups backed by Osama bin Laden's terrorist network. Judge Guillermo Polanco said he had insufficient evidence to keep the men in jail while he continues investigating.

**German terror trial:** A Moroccan man charged as an accessory to murder in the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks is expected to go on trial in mid-August in Germany's second court case against a suspected helper of the Hamburg al-Qaida cell, a court spokesman said Monday.

Abdelghani Mzoudi, 30, is accused of providing logistical support for the Hamburg cell and helping its members maintain the guise of normal students to elude authorities, federal prosecutors said in a statement earlier this month. He was charged on May 9 with 3,066 counts of accessory to murder and membership in a terrorist organization.

From wire reports



# News from around the war

## Shiites demands U.S. departure

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Thousands of Shiite Muslims marched peacefully through the capital Monday to protest the American occupation of Iraq and reject what they feared would be a U.S.-installed puppet government.

Small groups of U.S. infantrymen, including snipers on nearby rooftops, watched the rally but did not intervene. Several dozen Shiite organizers armed with AK-47 assault rifles patrolled the area. They, too, were left alone by the Americans.

Up to 10,000 people gathered in front of a Sunni Muslim mosque in Baghdad's northern district of Azimiyah, then marched across a bridge on the Tigris River to the nearby Kadhamiya quarter, home to one of the holiest Shiite shrines in Iraq.

It appeared to be the largest protest against the U.S. occupation since the war ended.

"What we are calling for is an interim government that represents all segments of Iraqi society," said Ali Salman, an activist.

Some carried portraits of the late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini of Iran, senior Iraqi Shiite clerics and of Imam Hussein, one of the most revered Shiite saints.

"We decided to gather outside a Sunni mosque to show unity between Shiites and Sunnis," said Rashid Hamdan, an organizer.

He said the procession was organized mainly by religious groups from Baghdad's al-Thawra suburb — formerly known as Saddam City, home to an estimated 2 million Shiites.

Shiites make up the majority of Iraq's 24 million people but were long excluded from political power by Saddam Hussein's Sunni Muslim regime.

## Barney has role cracking prisoners

Metallica and Big Bird are turning Saddam's captured cronies into real headbangers.

Although it's not quite as inhumane as water torture, U.S. military officials are using heavy-metal music and kiddie-show theme songs to mentally break down Iraqi POWs.

Psychologists are squeezing secrets out of Saddam Hussein's henchmen by locking them in a room and depriving them of sleep by playing hours of blaring hard-rock music.

When that doesn't work, they roll out the big guns, like the purple dinosaur Barney singing "I Love You" a million times or Bert and Ernie warbling the theme to "Sesame Street."

"Trust me, it works," one U.S. operative told Newsweek.

Sgt. Mark Hadsell said the point is to erode a subject's resistance by really annoying him. His favorites include "Bodies" from Vin Diesel's "XXX" soundtrack and Metallica's "Enter Sandman."

"These people haven't heard heavy metal before," he said. "They can't take it. If you play it for 24 hours, your brain and body functions start to slide, your train of thought slows down and your will is broken. That's when we come in and talk to them."

## U.S. to track visitors

WASHINGTON — Foreign visitors arriving at U.S. airports or seaports beginning Jan. 1, 2004, will have their travel documents scanned, fingerprints and photos taken and identification checked against terrorist watchlists.

Homeland Security Undersecretary Asa Hutchinson released details Monday of the department's new U.S. Visitor and Immigration Status Indication Technology, or U.S. VISIT, that will check the comings and goings of certain foreign travelers.

The checks will apply to people who arrive in this country carrying visas, which last year was about 60 percent or 23 million of the foreign visitors, said Hutchinson, who oversees Border and Transportation Security.

"In 99.9 percent of the cases, the visitor will simply be wished a good day or sent on their way," Hutchinson said in a speech at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, a think tank. "But with that small percentage of hits, our country will be made much safer and our immigration system will be given a foundation of integrity that has been lacking for too long."

## Saddam relative nabbed

WASHINGTON — Coalition forces in Iraq said Monday they captured the brother-in-law of toppled President Saddam Hussein.

Luay Khayrallah, No. 152 on the coalition's most-wanted list, was taken into custody Friday, said the U.S. Central Command.

He is the brother of Saddam's wife, a companion of Saddam's son, Uday, and a representative of the former regime's intelligence and security apparatus, Central Command said in a statement.

## Hostile groups complicate U.S. plans

BAGHDAD, Iraq — Pro-Iranian paramilitaries, Afghan Islamic militants with suspected al-Qaida links, feuding Kurdish factions, tribal militants and criminal gangs.

The United States may have routed Saddam Hussein's army, but it still faces an array of dangerous groups it wants to neutralize, co-opt or eliminate in Iraq.

Some "bad actors," as the U.S. military calls them, were active before Saddam's regime fell. Others are scrambling to fill the current power vacuum, plying a confused citizenry with wild promises and recruitment pitches.

As weapons from looted armories fuel a thriving black market, the risk of armed conflict among these groups or between them and U.S.-led coalition forces is an uncomfortable prospect.

Ranked by the U.S. military as potentially the most disruptive force is the Badr Brigade, the armed wing of the Iran-based Supreme Council of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, or SCIRI.

With as many as 9,000 well-armed fighters, the Badr Brigade fought Saddam's regime but remained on the sidelines when the Americans toppled it. The brigade and the council, headed by Ayatollah Mohammed Baqir al-Hakim, oppose the American presence in Iraq but have not confronted U.S. troops.

Instead, the brigade stepped up its own war-within-a-war against the Mujahideen Khalq, an Iraq-based Iranian group fighting the clerical government in Teheran.

Robin Leeds, an analyst with the U.S.-based think tank GlobalSecurity.org, calls SCIRI "a very frightening component on a clear mission to undermine the U.S."

Groups like SCIRI, she says, may use a two-pronged strategy, taking part in Iraq's interim government while struggling for dominance through subversive means.

## Missteps in security seen

BAGHDAD, Iraq — A month before the war began in Iraq, senior Bush administration officials said their plan for winning the peace was built upon the swift provision of basic services that would "immediately" make the Iraqi people feel they were better off than they'd been under Saddam Hussein.

Five weeks after the war ended, the administration is still struggling to accomplish that goal. It's failed to establish law and order on the streets and has achieved only mixed results in restoring electricity, water, sanitation and other essentials.

In interviews and testimony on Capitol Hill, military officers, other administration officials and defense experts said the Pentagon ignored lessons from a decade of peacekeeping operations in Haiti, Somalia, the Balkans and Afghanistan.

It also badly underestimated the potential for looting and lawlessness after the collapse of the Iraqi government, lacking forces capable of securing the streets of Baghdad in the transition from combat to postwar reconstruction.

Only in the past week did administration officials begin to acknowledge publicly these miscalculations. They described continued lawlessness as a serious problem in Baghdad and called for more U.S. forces on the ground to quell a wave of violence that has kept American officials from assuring the Iraqi people that order would soon be restored.

"This was a war plan," said a senior official in the Pentagon's Office of Reconstruction and Humanitarian Assistance in Baghdad. "It was not a law enforcement plan."

The administration, without explanation, has replaced retired Army Lt. Gen. Jay Garner, the Pentagon's chief reconstruction official, with Paul Bremer, a former Reagan administration diplomat who arrived in Baghdad on Tuesday and immediately unleashed major changes in policy. U.S. forces increased patrols across Baghdad, launched an aggressive pursuit of criminals and started imprisoning looters for 20 days.

Bremer and his aides also halted the withdrawal of any U.S. forces and commenced a high-level, comprehensive review of security needs.

## Iraqi pensioners brave chaos for \$40

BAGHDAD, Iraq — The Iraqi agency responsible for paying pensioners handed out emergency payments Sunday for the first time since the start of the war, triggering hours of chaos as retirees and their families fought with U.S. troops to force their way into the Baghdad office building.

More than 5,000 retirees and retirees' relatives showed up early Sunday to collect an initial \$40 emergency payment, designed to help them until Iraqi workers can reconstruct thousands of records looted after U.S. troops entered Baghdad.

The Iraqi Pension Department expects to pay more than 350,000 people in the next 30 days — an average of 14,000 people a day.

U.S. soldiers began stringing concertina wire around the building on Saturday to secure the building. When huge crowds showed up Sunday morning, the Iraqis began trying to push their way past the wire into the building.

Troops struggled with the crowd, and many fell into the wire and were cut by sharp edges. Some men tried to jump over the wire, and some women slapped and bit U.S. soldiers while trying to force their way in. Soldiers pointed their weapons at the Iraqis to persuade them to back away.

More than a dozen men were detained and handcuffed, but they were later released. U.S. forces addressed the crowd using interpreters with bullhorns. "We've appealed to the people to settle down, but they won't," said 1st Lt. Lars Nadig, whose platoon was protecting the building.

"They don't care, they keep pushing, it's a free-for-all. They'll trample each other if we let them."

## Poll: Most Americans favor U.N. role

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Americans' strong support for the war with Iraq has not diminished the public's belief in the importance of working with the United Nations and winning international backing for future military action, polls suggest.

"The American public is showing significant enthusiasm for having gone to war, and the president has overwhelming support for that choice," said Steven Kull, director of the Program on International Policy Attitudes. "It does seem, though, that this support is very compartmentalized and specific to the Iraq situation."

"There's no evidence it is spilling over to other areas, into a greater readiness to use military force against either Syria, Iran or North Korea," Kull said. "They continue to favor an approach that emphasizes diplomacy just like they did before the war."

Kull presented poll findings that show a solid majority, often two-thirds or more, who feel the United Nations should play a key role in such decisions. At the same time, there's no evidence that more people support the use of military force generally to resolve problems or support the use of force without U.N. backing.

## Army credits success to stockpiling

WASHINGTON — One key to the Army's success in getting crucial supplies to troops on the Iraq battlefield was the availability of ammunition, vehicles and other war-fighting equipment that had been stockpiled in the Persian Gulf region years earlier, two Army generals said Monday.

Brig. Gen. Jack C. Stultz, speaking from a U.S. headquarters in Baghdad, said tons of pre-positioned equipment for both the Army and the Marine Corps was moved out of storage and into place in Kuwait last November and December — months before President Bush made the final decision to attack Iraq.

The Army says the Iraq war was the first fought using pre-positioned equipment. The concept was developed in the aftermath of the 1991 Persian Gulf War. Materiel was stockpiled in Kuwait, Qatar and elsewhere in the region, including 8,000 tons of ammunition on land and 58,000 tons aboard ships.

Also stored in the area were 324 battle tanks and 374 Bradley armored fighting vehicles.

## Afghanistan battles continue

KABUL, Afghanistan — U.S. Special Forces troops seized a weapons cache near their fort in the eastern town of Jalalabad. The cache included nearly 400 mortar rounds and over 70 rockets.

In the north, Special Forces completed a search of a cave complex and handed over tank rounds and small arms ammunition found there to the Afghan national army.

The caves were located at Maimana, near the northern city of Mazar-e Sharif. Some 19 cave openings were collapsed in controlled explosions, the military said.

There has been bitter fighting between rival warlords in Maimana and in Mazar-e Sharif. It wasn't clear whether the weapons belonged to the warlords, both of whom are affiliated with the government.

About 11,500 coalition forces are in Afghanistan hunting down Taliban rebels, al-Qaida terrorists and their allies.

Also, a U.S. military vehicle struck two Afghan boys in the eastern town of Gardez, killing one and injuring the other. The accident occurred Saturday after the two ran across a street as a three-vehicle convoy was passing, the Army statement said. The injured boy was treated and released.

From wire reports

## Afghan president threatens to resign

KABUL, Afghanistan — President Hamid Karzai threatened to resign if recalcitrant governors across this fractious country don't send vital customs revenues to the central government, saying their lack of cooperation was threatening Afghanistan's stability.

In a speech broadcast on state television late Sunday, Karzai said provincial authorities had sent no money to central government coffers since mid-March, the start of the Afghan fiscal year, and scores of security forces and civil servants had not been paid as a result.

"A few weeks ago, the Finance Ministry reported there was no money in the treasury, but we do have money," Karzai said. "Hundreds of millions of dollars in customs revenues are being collected in the provinces."

Afghanistan's border provinces straddle lucrative import routes and are ruled by powerful warlords, who are known to keep customs duties for themselves and forward little to the central government, which relies heavily on foreign aid.

Donors agreed to supply \$350 million of the government's budget this year, while the government is expected to raise \$200 million.

Karzai said customs revenues alone could bring in \$600 million.

## Afghan guerrillas target aid workers

KABUL, Afghanistan — Afghanistan, struggling to achieve peace after nearly a quarter century of war, has long been a dangerous place to live and work. But it's getting worse.

Today rebels seeking to undermine the government and reconstruction efforts are taking direct aim at aid workers.

"There's been a very, very big deterioration in security countrywide, especially for aid workers," said Rafael Robillard of ACBAR, an umbrella group of 86 aid agencies in Kabul. "Aid workers are being specifically targeted by people trying to destabilize the government, which is very dependent on aid. We're easy targets. It's a serious problem."

In the last month alone, seven Afghan mine-clearers have been shot and one killed in four separate ambushes in the south of the country. In March, an international Red Cross water engineer from El Salvador was murdered in southern Kandahar province. And in April, assailants threw grenades at a U.N. children's agency compound in the east.

The government of President Hamid Karzai has blamed the violence on Taliban fighters, who they say are stepping up guerrilla attacks with allied supporters of former Prime Minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar and al-Qaida remnants.

The United Nations has responded by suspending travel on some roads and restricting U.N. vehicle movements to daylight hours. On Thursday, they announced staff would travel in six of the most volatile southern provinces only if they were given armed escorts by the government.

"This is a new situation, and we are trying to deal with it in a way that allows us to keep operating," said Manoel de Almeida e Silva, the U.N. spokesman in Kabul. "Is this ideal? No."

## Court won't rule on Gitmo detainees

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court turned away an appeal Monday over detention of hundreds of U.S. prisoners picked up in Afghanistan after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

The court did not comment in rejecting an appeal from clergy, lawyers and others who wanted to go to court on behalf of the prisoners held at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, without charges or access to lawyers.

Lower federal courts had blocked the legal challenge on grounds that the clergy group did not have legal standing.

The clergy group sued President Bush, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and others last year.

"The United States government violated basic principles of international human rights law in forcibly removing prisoners of war from Afghanistan, transporting them to Guantanamo, and holding them indefinitely in small outdoor cages," the clergy group alleged.

The suit claimed the prisoners were deprived of their liberty and have not been informed of the accusations against them, in violation of the U.S. Constitution.

The coalition demanded that the government provide the prisoners with lawyers, bring them before a U.S. court, acknowledge their identities and define the charges against them. The detainees are from some 36 countries.

The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals declined to address the merits of those complaints.

To have standing to represent the detainees in court, the San Francisco-based federal appeals court said, the coalition would need to have had a pre-existing relationship with the detainees or prove that the prisoners had mental defects.

The court declined to rule on whether individual prisoners could bring cases.

From wire reports

# U.S. Riyadh joint probe working

BY DONNA ABU-NASR

*The Associated Press*

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia — Saudi and U.S. investigators are fully cooperating in the probe into the Riyadh suicide bombings linked to al-Qaida, although an FBI team is not interrogating suspects, a U.S. official said Monday.

Also Monday, a man standing with a gun outside the U.S. Consulate in Dhahran, 300 miles east of Riyadh, was arrested and was being questioned by Saudi police, a U.S. Embassy official said.

U.S. diplomats said no one was injured or threatened in the incident, but that the consulate was closed until further notice.

Saudi interior minister Prince Nayef called for an international crackdown on terrorism. But he described a limited role for U.S. investigators, saying they had come to examine "the sites and we welcomed them based on that, for examining only."

His comments may have been an attempt to answer any domestic criticism his government is ceding control to the Americans.

At the same time, a U.S. official said Saudi investigators were "being totally cooperative." Both sides have been saying they expect better coordination compared to the investigation into the Khobar Towers bombings, when U.S. officials complained about being denied access to evidence, witnesses and suspects.

More than 60 FBI and other U.S. investigators are assisting Saudi authorities with the probe into Monday's attacks.

"We're getting real and good cooperation," the U.S. official in Riyadh said Monday. He said reports that Saudi authorities were obstructing the investigation were "100 percent false."

He said the FBI was not interrogating any of the suspects. The FBI team was "in close touch with the Saudis. They have had full access to the sites," the official said.

"We've had an effective and pleasant reception. They're not being hostile, diffident or standing with

## Alleged illegal arms sales probed

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia — Saudi authorities are investigating suspected illegal arms sales by members of the country's national guard to al-Qaida operatives in the country, U.S. and Saudi officials said.

The weapons were seized in a May 6 raid on an al-Qaida safe house and were traced to national guard stockpiles, the officials U.S. and Saudi sources said.

Problems in the Saudi Arabian National Guard aren't new, according to the officials. Past audits of its armories have revealed that weapons were missing. But there was no crackdown on the illicit trade largely because of bureaucratic inertia, the officials said.

"This will focus their attention," a U.S. official said.

A small number of officers in the Saudi national guard have been involved in illicit gun sales for years, according to the officials, and have sold weapons, including automatic rifles, to anyone willing to pay prices well above their market value. The officials emphasized that the motivation of the officers selling the weapons was money, not ideology, and doesn't indicate any al-Qaida penetration of a force that is supposed to protect the government.

One Saudi official said the discovery has galvanized the senior Saudi leadership and the national guard itself. One of its officers was shot and killed last week as he tried to fend off suicide bombers who stormed one of the targeted residential compounds in Riyadh.

"People are furious," one Saudi official said.

From The Washington Post

arms folded," he said, adding that the Saudis were being "real partners in this."

He said that there weren't "tens of thousands of active al-Qaida members" in the kingdom, but "we believe the al-Qaida presence here is more than a single cell or two."

# Casablanca bombers made mistakes

## Poor planning, miscues spared lives, police say

BY JAMEY KEATEN

*The Associated Press*

CASABLANCA, Morocco — Despite the appearance of a tightly organized attack, some of the suicide bombers who killed 28 people in Casablanca last week may have hit the wrong targets or made other planning mistakes, police said Monday.

The 14 bombers, who mounted five nearly simultaneous attacks around the city Friday night, apparently did not know, for example, that a Jewish community center they attacked was closed at the time.

At a Jewish cemetery, an attacker detonated his explosives at a fountain about 50 yards away from the graveyard, killing three Muslims. The head of the local police unit suspected the bomber meant instead to attack a similar fountain at the cemetery's entrance.

"This was the wrong place — there's nothing here," said the officer, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

In an attack at a hotel, a bellhop and a security guard spotted the attackers as they approached and blocked them from entering, forcing them to detonate their bombs outside, where they were less deadly.

The apparent mistakes called into question the bombers' preparation. While they have not named the al-Qaida terror network, Moroccan officials have said since early Saturday that the attackers were linked to international terrorism.

Investigators Monday were busy looking for evidence of overseas ties to the bombers, 13 of whom died in the attacks. The one survivor is being questioned by police.

Agents were probing whether the bombers had any contacts with three Saudis sentenced to 10 years in prison in February for their part in an al-Qaida plot to attack U.S. and British warships in the Strait of Gibraltar, a security official said Monday, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Some Moroccans were eager to connect the at-

tacks — which also damaged a Spanish restaurant, the Belgian consulate and a Jewish-owned Italian eatery — to al-Qaida. The Gazette de Maroc newspaper on Monday had a headline reading, "Carnage signed bin Laden," with a front-page photo of the terrorist leader.

Diplomatic officials in Rabat, the capital, said that seven Europeans — three French, three Spanish and one Italian — were killed in the attacks. Two other French citizens were wounded. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity.

In France, the Paris prosecutors' office opened an investigation into the French deaths in the bombings, judicial sources said on condition of anonymity. France already has dispatched police agents to Morocco to help with the probe.

The Moroccan government said Sunday they had identified eight of the attackers, and said most of them were from the Sidi Moumen neighborhood, known as a hotbed of Islamic fundamentalism. The justice minister said all the attackers were Moroccan.

Agents launched raids around the country Saturday and Sunday in search of suspected Islamic militant groups. Officials said Sunday that several dozen militants were apprehended.

Life downtown has slowly started returning to normal. Police barriers were lifted in front of Casa de Espana, a popular Spanish restaurant where the deadliest attack took place during a game of bingo.

The remains of three Spaniards killed at the restaurant were flown to Madrid on Monday. Deputy Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy accompanied the families of the victims as the coffins arrived at Madrid's Barajas airport.

Moroccan Justice Minister Mohamed Bouzoubaa said the 14 bombers had spent time abroad before returning to Morocco before the attacks.

Police were trying to determine if the attackers were linked to a known extremist group Salafia Jihadia, which is accused of ties to the al-Qaida terror network.

Another Moroccan group suspected is the Attakfir wal Hijra, also believed to have al-Qaida links, a security official said on condition of anonymity.



# Group: Gays booted from military less frequently during wartime

BY APRIL HUNT

*The Orlando (Fla.) Sentinel*

ORLANDO, Fla. — Don't ask, don't tell — just fight. That could be the real philosophy behind the Pentagon's policy on gays in the military, a new report suggests.

Since the war on terrorism began, the government has kicked out far fewer gay soldiers — just as it has during past wars.

The report by the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network, an advocacy group that represents gay men and lesbians trying to serve, shows a 29 percent decrease in discharges of gay soldiers in 2002, down from 1,273 the year before.

In all, 906 gay servicemembers were discharged in 2002, down from 1,273 the year before.

Gay-rights advocates such as Chuck Webb of Orlando, who was kicked out of the Air Force in 1991, say the plunge proves that the government can be tolerant when it needs soldiers with specific skills.

Elaine Donnelly, president of the Center for Military Readiness, a Michigan think tank, and others opposed to gays in the military say discharges fell mostly because of other priorities for the military during conflict.

Both sides agree on one thing: The decade-old "don't ask, don't tell, don't pursue" policy is not working and should be scrapped.

Gay-rights advocates want a decree that gays can be open about their sexuality and serve. Opponents favor a return to the old law, which found homosexuality incompatible with military service.

And both sides are convinced the number of gay discharges will climb again in the aftermath of the war with Iraq.

"Now, they need us," said Webb, a 34-year-old Orlando real-estate broker discharged for being gay. "Once this war is over, I think they will be back to discharging gay people left and right."

Defense Department officials said they are "committed to treating all servicemembers with dignity and respect" while also enforcing "don't ask, don't tell."

They note that gay discharges have remained steady, about six-tenths of 1 percent of total discharges, for the past four years.

Historically, though, the military has been less vigorous about keeping gays out during conflicts.

They were allowed to serve before World War II and were often kept in the military during that war because gays were less open about their sexuality and the military needed all the soldiers it could get, according to a 1993 Congressional Research Service report.

In 1966, as the Vietnam War was escalating, draft boards began demanding "proof" of homosexuality — signed statements from sexual partners or affidavits from doctors.

That led to only 1 percent of the 5 million men exempted from service being deferred for "moral defect," according to the book "Conduct Unbecoming" by the late journalist Randy Shilts.

The Navy, for example, steadily slashed its gay discharges, from 1,708 in 1966 to 461 in 1970.

For his part, Webb was discharged in 1991 after three years of service. He said former sexual partners named him in an inquiry on his base in the Philippines.

Ten years ago, shortly after taking office, President Clinton vowed to stop such "witch hunts" by ending a 50-year-old ban on gays in the military.

But objections from military officials and social conservatives forced the administration to strike a compromise between barring gays outright and permitting them to serve openly.

"Don't ask, don't tell, don't pursue" allows gay men and lesbians in uniform as long as they stay mum about their sexual orientation. A fourth element, "don't harass," was added in 2000.

There are no plans to abandon the policy, according to a Defense Department official.

When the government last year halted scheduled retirements and general discharges because of war — effectively reducing the total number of honorable discharges — it did not include gays who disclose their orientation. Those booted for being gay also receive an honorable discharge.

## Baghdad's security vacuum challenges troops

BY MARNI MCENTEE

*Stars and Stripes*

BAGHDAD, Iraq — It was a routine day in Baghdad on Saturday for the soldiers of Company C, 3rd Battalion, 69th Armor Regiment.

Within 90 minutes of setting up a traffic checkpoint on a sweltering street in the east part of the city, the 3rd Infantry Division troops had seized 20 weapons, including three AK-47 assault rifles, three revolvers and two 9 mm pistols, said Staff Sgt. Richard Rosado. "Everybody's got a weapon," said Rosado, 37, of Manatín, Puerto Rico.

Indeed, illegal weapons are one of the biggest obstacles U.S. troops face in their effort to keep a lid on violent and petty crime in Baghdad, home to more than 6 million people.

Add to that the lack of a local police force, rampant unemployment and lack of basic services, and the tendency toward lawlessness becomes more understandable, a V Corps intelligence officer said Saturday.

In the past two weeks, an increasing number of incidents, including the shooting deaths of two American soldiers, has made security the top concern for Baghdad residents, as well as a number of U.S. senators who fear the city may spiral out of control.

"Our major concern is safety," said Najim Aldeen, a 44-year-old shop owner in the area that Rosado's company patrols.

The same goes for the troops. A sample of the daily reports of criminal activity provides a glimpse of what U.S. soldiers face:

■ On Thursday, a 204th Military Police Company unit on daytime patrol shot one Iraqi and detained another after the two Iraqi men shot at troops when the soldiers interrupted a carjacking. No soldiers were injured.

■ The same night, MPs from the same company shot two Iraqis to death and wounded another after the suspects fired on the MPs from the back of a taxi in downtown Baghdad.

■ Last Tuesday night, someone dropped grenades from a bridge as an MP patrol passed underneath. The soldiers were not seriously injured.

■ On May 8, an Iraqi walked up to a soldier on a bridge and shot him in the head with a pistol at close range. That same day, a 3rd Infantry Division soldier was killed when a sniper shot him in the head in east Baghdad.

The steady criminal activity has prompted the Heidelberg, Germany-based V Corps, which is in charge of 40,000 soldiers in Baghdad, to nearly double the number of MPs in the city.

In addition, after 1st Armored Division troops arrive to replace the 3rd Infantry Division, a swap that is expected to be complete by June, one 3rd ID brigade will likely be left behind for at least a month.

Last week, V Corps Commander Lt. Gen. William S. Wallace said the decision to keep any of the Fort Stewart, Ga.-based troops behind was being discussed "in order to stabilize the security situation in Baghdad."

In the meantime, efforts are under way to re-establish a local police force that, one day, will be able to take over the police mission.

Before the war, Baghdad was secured with an iron fist by roughly 20,000 police officers and an additional 20,000 to 30,000 Iraqi soldiers, said the V Corps intelligence officer, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Their disappearance from the streets of Baghdad has left a huge security vacuum, he said.

"If you take away a 50,000- to 60,000-strong force all of a sudden, you're going to have issues," he said.

As of Saturday, some 7,000 Iraqi policemen were ready to go back to work, the Army reported. However, a recent 3rd ID briefing indicated that only 400 of them had been patrolling the streets jointly with American soldiers.

Most of the police don't have guns, though the Army is working to provide them with weapons.

Part of the problem in getting police on the streets, the intelligence officer said, is that the police themselves are leery of confronting a population that is armed to the teeth.

"They're afraid," the intelligence officer said. "Everybody's running around with AK-47s."

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## Plan to merge exchanges studied

ARLINGTON, Va. — The Pentagon is looking at consolidating the Army and Air Force Exchange Service, the Navy Exchange and the Marine Corps Exchange, and has named its point man for the project.

Deputy Defense Secretary Paul Wolfowitz charged Principal Deputy Undersecretary of Defense for Personnel and Readiness Charles Abell on Friday with determining "the most efficient and cost effective way to organize and operate the exchanges as a single entity," according to a DOD news release.

Abell signaled the Pentagon's intent to consolidate the three exchange services during an April 2 hearing before the Total Force Subcommittee of the House Armed Services Committee.

The consolidation plan already has some critics, including Michael Downs, director of Personnel and Family Readiness Division of the Marine Corps, who told members of the subcommittee on April 2 "the exchange systems aren't broken."

But defense officials said they are only trying to make the exchanges more efficient and cost-effective to run, "yielding a benefit that is not only preserved but enhanced," according to the release.

## Some service autonomy targeted

In an audacious move that seeks to capitalize on the success of U.S. military strategy in Iraq, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld is launching an initiative that would strip the individual services of the power to establish their military-equipment needs and centralize it within a newly formed Pentagon body.

Since taking his post in January 2001, Rumsfeld has pressed the Air Force, Navy and Army to work more closely, increasing coordination and communication to gain advantage on the battlefield. While military officials say that the war in Iraq demonstrated greater cooperation among the services than any previous fight, the defense secretary's new effort is intended to align equipment needs to avoid unnecessary redundancies and cut costs. Such changes could have a financial impact on companies such as Lockheed Martin Corp. of Bethesda, Md., Chicago-based Boeing Co. and Los Angeles-based Northrop Grumman Corp., which garner a huge amount of their sales from the military.

"The services think about their requirements and how they meet them internally and things only get integrated at the secretary of defense level," Pentagon acquisitions chief Edward "Pete" Aldridge said. Rather, Rumsfeld is seeking to "establish joint needs for the Defense Department in the beginning so military departments become the providers of those capabilities," Aldridge said.

## Two plead guilty in soldier's OD

Two V Corps soldiers pleaded guilty in separate courts-martial in the death of Pfc. Stephen V. Jordan II, 596th Maintenance Company, 3rd Corps Support Command.

Spc. Eric R. Norton-Aragon, 20, and Pfc. Kevin M. Mosley, 21, both of the 596th Maintenance Company, based in Darmstadt, Germany, entered their pleas in trials at Cambrai-Fritsch Casern in Darmstadt, according to a V Corps statement.

Jordan died of a heroin overdose in Darmstadt on Sept. 12.

Norton-Aragon pleaded guilty to manslaughter and other charges at a general court-martial May 5. He was sentenced to reduction to the lowest enlisted grade, forfeiture of all pay and allowances, nine years of confinement and a dishonorable discharge.

Mosley pleaded guilty to negligent homicide and other charges at a general court-martial May 8. He was sentenced to reduction to the lowest enlisted grade, forfeiture of all pay and allowances, 12 years of confinement and a dishonorable discharge.

## Navy stresses safety in peace, war

WASHINGTON — In peace and war, off duty and on, a few hundred servicemembers die and thousands are injured in accidents each year. So promoting everyday safety is a serious military strategy.

But how to sell brash young warriors, primed for bullets and bombs, on the mundane merits of seat belts and safety goggles and look-before-you-leap? The Navy's safety team has a battle plan: Skip the platitudes in favor of telling sailors' and pilots' true stories about bang-ups and blunders.

The result is a sort of macho show-and-tell that gives a far more frank, and funky, glimpse of military mistakes than the government typically reveals.

On a Web site designed for sailors and Marines, but open to everyone, the Naval Safety Center presents a photo gallery of screw-ups, both military and civilian: An errant missile scoots across a flight deck while a crewman scrambles away. A woman drives her sedan into a wide puddle that turns out to be deep, too — and swallows up the whole car.

Occasionally, they throw in something shocking: a close-up of a crewman's scalp scarred by an airplane antenna, a sailor's jaw blown open by a practice bomb, the open hatch where a Marine fell 20 feet to his death.

The Web site, [www.safetycenter.navy.mil](http://www.safetycenter.navy.mil), attracts 250,000 visits per month, about half of them from outside the military.

From staff and wire reports

## Bush welcomes Arroyo

WASHINGTON — President Bush said Monday the United States is "slowly but surely" dismantling al-Qaida despite a wave of attacks linked to the terrorist group.

"This is still a dangerous world we live in, and clearly the attack in Saudi Arabia means we have to be alert here at home," Bush said at a joint White House news conference with Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo.

Arroyo, a staunch U.S. ally in the war on terror and in Iraqi reconstruction, was welcomed with the pomp of a state visit. It is only the third such visit of Bush's presidency, and the first by the head of state of an Asian nation.

At their East Room news conference, the president called Arroyo "a friend of America and a friend of freedom." He also named the Philippines a major "non-NATO ally," a designation that gives the country greater access to U.S. defense equipment and supplies.

## Fleischer resigns as press secretary

WASHINGTON — White House press secretary Ari Fleischer, the public face of the Bush administration through two wars and a terrorist attack, said Monday he will resign in July to enter the private sector.

"I love this job," Fleischer told reporters at his informal Monday morning briefing. "I believe deeply about President Bush as a man and I believe deeply in his policies, but it's my time to go."

He would not speculate on who would take his place, but presidential aides said deputy press secretary Scott McClellan was the likely successor, although there are other possibilities.

Fleischer said he wanted to leave the hard-driving job before Bush's re-election campaign geared up. "I want to do something more relaxing — like dismantling live nuclear weapons," he quipped.

## Students walk out on Santorum

PHILADELPHIA — St. Joseph's University commencement are not a typical venue for political theater, but about 80 students and faculty paraded out of the celebration tent during Sunday's ceremony to protest the day's speaker, U.S. Sen. Rick Santorum, R-Pa.

Dozens of other students hooked rainbow-colored tassels onto their mortarboards, along with the university's regular-issue crimson and gray tassels, as a silent protest of Santorum's recent controversial statements about homosexuals.

Santorum, the Senate's third-ranking Republican, seemed to take the hubbub in stride, making his speech and noting that the three strongest attributes of youth are energy, idealism and rebelliousness.

Just before Santorum received an honorary degree, the protesters stood and left. Some students jeered them. About 50 of the 1,000 graduates gave Santorum a standing ovation.

## Students protest policy on gays

ASHLAND, Ore. — Students at Southern Oregon University say they will cancel their blood drive this term because many gay men are ineligible.

Guidelines established by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration ban males who have had a homosexual encounter since 1977. Some students say that goes against the university's anti-discrimination policy and falsely labels AIDS and HIV as a gay men's disease.

"I know I've been yelling about it for years," said Daniel Conner, a senior. "I'm a gay man and I don't like being forced to lie to help people."

Amanda Guidero, a student government official, decided not to hold the planned blood drive after hearing complaints.

According to the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, men who have sex with men represent the largest proportion of new HIV infections at 42 percent. Next come heterosexual couples, then intravenous drug users.

## Los Angeles police under fire

LOS ANGELES — Police investigators enabled 96 officers to escape possible prosecution because they did not submit cases of alleged wrongdoing to the district attorney's office on time, according to a newspaper report.

Internal records from the Los Angeles Police Department show that in the last two years prosecutors dismissed 65 cases in which officers were accused of roughing up civilians, driving drunk or lying to investigators.

The cases were all dismissed because the department waited until the statute of limitations had passed before filing them, the Los Angeles Times reported Monday. In many instances, the officers were repeat offenders.

Despite delays by the department's internal affairs division, the department suspended, demoted or dismissed nearly a third of the accused officers. Most got suspensions of up to two weeks without pay.

From wire reports

# At least 3 die in Israel bombing

*The Associated Press*

AFULA, Israel — A Palestinian woman blew herself up during a security check outside a mall in northern Israel on Monday, killing three Israelis and wounding dozens in the fifth suicide bombing in 48 hours.

Monday's blast in the working-class town of Afula near the West Bank was claimed by a militia linked to the ruling Fatah group, proving particularly embarrassing to the Palestinian prime minister, Mahmoud Abbas, a Fatah leader, who has denounced violence and promised to rein in the militants.

Israel blamed Yasser Arafat for one of the steepest spikes in violence in nearly three years of fighting, saying he continues to encourage terror, even if he is not directly involved in planning attacks. Arafat angrily denied the accusations.

Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon resisted renewed pressure from his Cabinet to expel Arafat, apparently because of U.S. opposition to a step that could derail the "road map" plan.

Monday's blast in Afula went off at 5:14 p.m. at a back entrance to the Shaarei Amakim mall where shoppers were waiting in line for a security check.

The attacker, identified as Hiba Daraghme, 19, from the West Bank village of Tubas, detonated the explosives as she stepped up to security guards, witnesses said.

Two guards, a man and a woman, were among the three people killed. Forty-seven people were wounded, including several who were in serious condition.

## China confident it can beat SARS

BEIJING — China assured the World Health Organization that its SARS outbreak is finally coming under control, while the United States said it will back a bid Monday by Taiwan — also hard hit by the virus — for WHO observer status, despite objections from Beijing.

WHO was opening a meeting of its General Assembly in Geneva on Monday.

China perennially rejects Taiwan's observer status at WHO, let alone its membership, arguing it would imply the island has sovereignty. Beijing insists that Taiwan belongs to China.

Critics say WHO epidemiologists could have helped Taiwan during the early days of its SARS outbreak in March but stayed away until China relented in early May and allowed a visit.

With no sign that SARS is letting up in Taiwan, where 40 people have died, President Chen Shui-bian publicly donned a surgical mask for the first time Monday as he inaugurated a 200-bed SARS-only facility.

On Monday, WHO delegates, wearing badges to show they'd been screened for SARS, preached global unity in the fight against the deadly disease.

## Death toll mounts in Sri Lanka

RATNAPURA, Sri Lanka — Air force helicopters and police teams searched for survivors in remote villages Monday after a weekend of floods and landslides killed up to 200 people in south-central Sri Lanka, officials said.

Forecasters said more rain was on its way, which would make the plight of about 150,000 people left homeless even more difficult.

"It is a very grim situation," said rehabilitation minister Jayalath Jayawardene. "I have been told that at least 200 people have died and still there are people unaccounted for."

Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe said the disaster was the nation's worst in five decades. The final death toll is "going to be heavy, sorry to say," he said without elaborating.

## Cubans on way to Florida get lost

CANCUN, Mexico — Five Cubans who built a boat in hopes of sailing to Florida got lost on the high seas and drifted for six days before landing on an island off Mexico's Caribbean coast, authorities said Sunday.

The men told Mexican migration officials they packed three days worth of food and supplies and left the Bay of Pigs before dawn May 12.

They had planned to head to Cabo San Antonio, a coastal town in western Cuba, to pick up extra food before pushing on toward the Florida Keys. But the currents changed, carrying the group west toward Mexico instead of north toward Cabo San Antonio and the United States.

Their food ran out on Thursday, and desperate to find anywhere to come ashore, the men followed a sea gull they spotted flying over the water, Gilberto Garcia, an immigration spokesman, said in a phone interview.

## Body identified

JERUSALEM — Israeli forensics experts on Monday identified a body that had washed up on a Mediterranean beach as that of a Briton who tried to blow himself up near a Tel Aviv pub, but ran away when his bomb failed to go off.

The experts said the man died of drowning. The identification of Omar Khan Sharif, 27, of Derby in central England, was made with the help of DNA samples provided by the family and brought to the Israeli Forensics Institute on Monday by British detectives, said Dr. Yehuda Hiss, the head of the institute.

Sharif's body was found on May 12. Israeli police confirmed the identification of the body but would not say when Sharif died.

Sharif was the alleged accomplice of Asif Hanif, 21, from the London suburb of Hounslow. On April 30, Hanif set off explosives he was carrying at Mike's Place, a popular Tel Aviv bar that caters to foreigners and immigrants, killing himself, a waitress and two musicians.

Sharif's explosives failed to go off, and police launched a large-scale search. It was not clear whether Sharif was injured at the time of the attack.

From The Associated Press

They followed the bird until Saturday morning when they spotted the lights of Isla Mujeres, an island popular with snorkelers near the resort city of Cancun.

They told authorities they weren't sure what country they had reached, but felt they had no choice but to come ashore, and landed on the island's Playa Norte beach just before dawn.

None of the ailments they suffered were life threatening, Garcia said.

The Cubans — a lawyer, a handicraft salesman and three metal-factory workers — told authorities they had pooled their money to build a 20-foot wood and corrugated-metal boat which was powered by a small diesel engine and equipped with a steering wheel ripped from an old car for navigation.

## U.S. to back anti-tobacco agreement

GENEVA — In a major shift in position, the United States indicated Sunday that it will back a global anti-tobacco treaty due to be adopted at the World Health Organization's annual assembly.

The treaty, four years in the making, envisages total bans or restrictions on advertising and marketing, new labeling controls and a clamp down on smuggling and secondhand smoke.

"Much to the surprise of many around the world, I am going to be supporting the tobacco treaty," U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson said on the eve of the meeting of health ministers.

But he stressed it would be a first step since the treaty still needs to be signed by President Bush and ratified by Congress.

## Pope talks of his own mortality

VATICAN CITY — With St. Peter's turned into a Polish square, Pope John Paul II told his countrymen Monday that his judgment day "is drawing near."

The ailing John Paul has spoken increasingly about his own mortality, but has brushed aside any suggestion he should step down.

Earlier Monday, the pope met privately with Polish President Aleksander Kwasniewski, who invited John Paul back to Poland.

## Experts urge talks with N. Korea

WASHINGTON — The United States should abandon its refusal to open direct negotiations with North Korea and instead seek "a verifiable nuclear settlement" with that country, a report sponsored by the Council on Foreign Relations says.

The Bush administration, rejecting direct talks with North Korea, has pressed for a negotiation with broad international participation, to include China, South Korea, Japan and perhaps others.

A start toward that objective began last month with the United States holding talks with China and North Korea in Beijing.

Declaring that the situation in North Korea poses a "genuine crisis," the panel said it believes that it is likely that North Korea can and will move to produce additional nuclear weapons material.

From wire reports



# Singh skipping Colonial

## Golfer says criticism of LPGA's Sorenstam not part of decision

BY STEPHEN HAWKINS

*The Associated Press*

IRVING, Texas — Vijay Singh made sure there won't be any awkward meetings with Annika Sorenstam at the Colonial.

He won't be there.

After wrapping up a contentious week with a victory Sunday in the Byron Nelson Championship, Singh withdrew from the Fort Worth event that he said the LPGA Tour star has no business playing.

A woman was behind his decision, but Singh insisted it had nothing to do with Sorenstam, who will be the first female player in 58 years to compete in a PGA Tour event.

"I told my wife last week if I won last week, I would take this week off," Singh said moments after winning the Colonial at 15-under 265, two strokes ahead of Nick Price. "So since I won this week, I'm going to take next week off."

Singh had made no public references to such a possibility before that. And

he had plenty of time with the media, from trying to clarify his previous comments about Sorenstam on Tuesday to topping the leader board after the second and third rounds.

"It has nothing to do with the controversy. I've played in four straight tournaments, and I need a break," he said. "It just came at the right time, I guess."

The only scenario for Singh missing the Colonial before then had been when he said he wouldn't play if paired with Sorenstam. He also had said he hoped she missed the cut.

Singh's comments to The Associated Press the previous Sunday about Sorenstam came after he finished second in North Carolina. He backed off a bit Tuesday, saying he was sorry if his comments came across as a personal attack. He also said that he hoped she missed the cut if he did, "because I don't want to have a woman beat me."

At the same time, he reiterated his objection to Sorenstam getting one of eight sponsor's exemptions into the Colonial, an invitational with a limited field.

"This is a man's tour," Singh said

Tuesday. "There are guys out there trying to make a living. It's not a ladies' tour. If she wants to play, she should — or any other woman for that matter — if they want to play the man's tour, they should qualify and play like everybody else."

Singh overcame the controversy all week, and Sunday rallied on the back nine after losing the lead. He had birdies on the 15th and 16th holes to edge Price, whose three-putt bogey on the 475-yard 15th came just moments before Singh's 28-foot birdie from the front fringe there. Price finished with a 65.

"Vijay is a straight-up person. You always know where you stand with him," Price said. "He sure got crucified this week. It just shows you how strong the guy is that he can come back and play the way he did and win."

It was the 13th PGA Tour victory and second of the season for Singh, who won \$1,008,000 to push his season earnings to \$2.9 million, fourth on the money list. He's the fifth multiple winner this season on the PGA Tour.

Singh said he would attend a memorial in New York on Wednesday for Mark

McCormack, the agent and manager who founded Cleveland-based IMG. Singh said he also had something to do Thursday, the first day of the Colonial, but wasn't specific.

While Singh won't be in nearby Fort Worth, Price is the defending Colonial champion.

Price has said Sorenstam's appearance "reeks of publicity."

His title defense has been overshadowed by the LPGA star.

"I've answered more questions about Annika than how I am playing going into next week ... how long has she been invited, three months?" Price said Sunday.

Price then said he respects her courage.

"I wish her the best of luck, I really do," Price said. "She has a big heart. I will give her that. I don't think I would be able to do what she is going to be able to do next week. I really don't."

Robert Allenby, playing for the first time since the Masters, closed with a 65 to finish third at 12 under. Scott Verplank (65) was another stroke back, and Jim Furyk (66) followed at 10 under.

### Cardinals 6, Cubs 3

ST. LOUIS — Scott Rolen drove in four runs and Albert Pujols snapped a seventh-inning tie with a run-scoring infield hit as St. Louis beat Chicago on Sunday.

The Cardinals have won only four of their past 12. But they maintained their mastery over the Cubs, who are 4-22 at Busch Stadium the past four seasons and haven't won consecutive games there since June 20-21, 2001.

Chicago has won seven of 10, but has dropped two of the first three games in the four-game series.

### National League

Dustin Hermanson (1-1) worked out of a seventh-inning jam, allowing one run after entering the game with the bases loaded and nobody out. Cal Eldred got two outs for his third career save — all in the past four days.

### Rockies 4, Expos 0

DENVER — Shawn Chacon pitched six scoreless innings, Jay Payton homered and Colorado beat Montreal in the

22nd shutout at Coors Field.

Chacon (5-2), winless in his previous three outings, allowed four hits to out-duel Tomo Ohka (3-5).

It was the Rockies' second shutout this season and 13th overall at Coors Field, which opened in 1995. Chacon was part of the other one this year as well, pitching seven scoreless innings in an 8-0 victory over San Diego on April 20.

### Mets 5, Giants 1

SAN FRANCISCO — Tom Glavine took a shutout into the ninth inning and Jason Phillips homered a day after being recalled from the minors to replace the injured Mike Piazza to lead New York.

Glavine (5-3) followed up on a strong eight-inning performance by Steve Trachsel on Saturday as the Mets beat the Giants for the second straight day after losing their first 12 regular season games at Pacific Bell Park.

Continued on Page 8

### BASEBALL

MINNEAPOLIS — Twins first baseman Doug Mientkiewicz left Minnesota's 3-2 victory Sunday over the Chicago White Sox with a sprained left ankle and is expected to miss at least 10 days.

Mientkiewicz's ankle landed on third baseman Joe Crede's foot as Crede tagged him out when Mientkiewicz was retreating to third base in the bottom of the second inning.

Manager Ron Gardenhire said the Twins would make a decision Monday whether to put Mientkiewicz on the 15-day disabled list.

Mientkiewicz broke for home plate when Esteban Loaiza's pitch bounced away from catcher Miguel Olivo. But Olivo recovered quickly and Mientkiewicz tried to return to third base. Olivo threw to Crede, who applied the tag.

### Sports in brief

#### TRACK & FIELD

SAN FRANCISCO — Kenya's James Koskei won the 7.4-mile Bay To Breakers race for the third straight time Sunday, while Ludmila Biktasheva was the top female finisher.

Koskei completed the course through the city in 35 minutes, 11 seconds. John Itati was second in 35:33 and Patrick Nthiwa finished third in 35:50. Biktasheva clocked 39:22.

#### CYCLING

AREZZO, Italy — World champion Mario Cipollini sprinted to his record-tying 41st career Giro d'Italia stage victory Sunday.

The Italian won this year's eighth stage, 132.5 miles from Rieti to Arezzo, to equal the 70-year-old wins mark established by Alfredo Binda.

Cipollini edged Robbie McEwen of Australia and Alessandro Petacchi of Italy to finish in 5 hours, 29 minutes, 46 seconds.

#### TENNIS

ST. POELTEN, Austria — David Sanchez of Spain beat Markus Hipfl of Austria 6-1, 6-0 Sunday in the first round of the Raiffeisen Grand Prix.

Also, Davide Sanguinetti of Italy defeated Sargis Sargsian of Armenia 6-3, 6-4 and Jean-Rene Lisnard of France

topped Michel Kratochvil of Switzerland 7-5, 7-6 (5).

### LACROSSE

SYRACUSE, N.Y. — Princeton beat Virginia 8-7 on Theresa Sherry's goal with about 1½ minutes left in overtime Sunday to win its second straight NCAA women's lacrosse championship.

Virginia (17-5) couldn't gain possession on the ensuing faceoff, and the Tigers ran out the clock.

Sherry spun past three defenders and beat goalie Andrea Pfeiffer to the short side for her third goal of the game — giving Princeton (16-4) its only lead with 89 seconds left.

Lindsey Biles and Elizabeth Pillion each scored twice, and Whitney Miller added one goal for Princeton.

From The Associated Press

### 'Matrix' takes in big bucks

Hordes of fans took another trip down the rabbit hole with Neo, Trinity and the other characters of "The Matrix Reloaded," giving the sequel the highest opening weekend gross of any R-rated film on record.

The Warner Bros. sequel to 1999's "The Matrix" took in an estimated \$93.3 million from Friday through Sunday, capturing 59.8 percent of the total gross of the weekend's top 12 films, according to studio estimates.

"Matrix Reloaded" made mincemeat out of the previous R-rated weekend record holder, 2001's "Hannibal," which brought in \$58 million. "Matrix Reloaded" opened in limited previews Wednesday night, and its total for all five days was estimated at \$135.8 million.

"Matrix Reloaded" becomes the second-highest first weekend grossing film of all time, behind last year's PG-13-rated "Spider-Man," which took in \$114.8 million its opening weekend.

### Faces 'n' places

"Matrix Reloaded," the second of a trilogy, which will wrap up with "The Matrix Revolutions," was rated R for violence and some sexuality.

"The Matrix Reloaded" easily knocked its sci-fi rival, "X2: X-Men United," into third place. "Daddy Day Care" held second place.

### Martin's latest album out this week

Ricky Martin is back with a new album he hopes will sway those who wrote him off as a one-hit wonder.

Martin's 1999 smash hit, "Livin' La Vida Loca" sold 15 millions copies worldwide, but his 2000 follow-up, "Sound Loaded" dropped to 4 million.

His latest, "Almas del Silencio" (Souls of Silence), hits stores Tuesday. The introspective work is the first Spanish-language album for Martin in five years.

### Soul singer on the mend

Barry White is "in great spirits" as he recovers from a stroke that affected his speech and the right side of his body, his daughter says.

The deep-voiced soul singer suffered the stroke earlier this month while waiting for a kidney transplant needed because of complications from years of chronic high blood pressure.

His daughter, Shaherah White, said the singer must be stabilized before he can undergo a transplant operation. "He's had a minor setback, but have no fear, he'll be fine," she said Friday. "He will definitely be performing again."

From The Associated Press

## Nets 76, Pistons 74

AUBURN HILLS, Mich. — Jason Kidd hit a 20-foot fadeaway shot from the baseline over Turkish center Mehmet Okur with 1.4 seconds left Sunday to give New Jersey a victory over Detroit in Game 1 of the Eastern Conference finals.

Kidd had 15 points, nine rebounds and seven assists, but he missed 13 of 19 shots in an ugly offensive show by both teams. The Pistons nearly won the game despite making just two field goals in the fourth quarter.

Okur even had two chances to tie at the buzzer. He missed when he tried to tip in a lobbed inbound pass from Tay-

## NBA playoffs

shaun Prince and got the rebound, but he couldn't convert the follow.

Richard Hamilton had 24 points to lead Detroit, which hosts Game 2 on Tuesday.

The Pistons were on the verge of setting standards for fourth-quarter futility, scoring just two points in the first eight minutes. That allowed the Nets to turn an eight-point deficit into a 72-65 lead with four minutes remaining.

But New Jersey suddenly went cold, with Kidd missing open shots and rushed ones.

Chauncey Billups, fouled as he drove

to the basket, tied the score at 74 with 22 seconds left to complete a 7-0 run for Detroit.

Then Kidd dribbled down the clock before driving to his right for the game-winner — the Nets' first basket in more than three minutes.

The Nets had their own miserable quarter in the third, scoring just 12 points on 4-for-12 shooting. Kenyon Martin, who finished with 16 points and nine rebounds, made three of those shots.

Ben Wallace had 22 rebounds for the Pistons, who know a thing or two about tough defense, having led the NBA this season by allowing opponents an average of just 87.7 points.

From The Associated Press

## Scores/standings

### NBA playoffs

#### CONFERENCE FINALS (Best-of-seven) Sunday, May 18

New Jersey 76, Detroit 74, New Jersey leads series 1-0

### American League

#### East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	27	16	.628	—
New York	27	16	.628	—
Toronto	22	22	.500	5½
Baltimore	19	24	.442	8
Tampa Bay	18	25	.419	9

	W	L	Pct	GB
Minnesota	25	18	.581	—
Kansas City	24	18	.571	½
Chicago	20	23	.465	5
Cleveland	14	28	.333	10½
Detroit	9	32	.220	15

#### West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Seattle	28	15	.651	—
Oakland	26	17	.605	2
Anaheim	21	21	.500	6½
Texas	19	24	.442	9

#### Sunday's games

Seattle 6, Detroit 2  
Texas 5, N.Y. Yankees 1  
Oakland 8, Cleveland 5  
Tampa Bay 9, Baltimore 8  
Boston 5, Anaheim 3  
Toronto 4, Kansas City 3  
Minnesota 3, Chicago White Sox 2

### National League

#### East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	31	13	.705	—
Montreal	27	17	.614	4
Philadelphia	25	19	.568	6
New York	19	25	.432	12
Florida	19	26	.422	12½

#### Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Chicago	25	18	.581	—
Houston	23	21	.523	2½
St. Louis	21	20	.512	3
Cincinnati	22	22	.500	3½
Pittsburgh	18	26	.409	7½
Milwaukee	15	29	.341	10½

#### West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
San Francisco	27	16	.628	—
Los Angeles	24	20	.545	3½
Colorado	21	23	.477	6½
Arizona	20	24	.455	7½
San Diego	13	31	.295	14½

#### Sunday's games

Cincinnati 6, Milwaukee 3, 10 innings  
St. Louis 6, Chicago Cubs 3  
Colorado 4, Montreal 0  
N.Y. Mets 5, San Francisco 1  
Los Angeles 2, Florida 1  
Arizona 8, Pittsburgh 6  
Atlanta 6, San Diego 3  
Philadelphia 3, Houston 1

From The Associated Press

## Rangers 5, Yankees 1

NEW YORK — John Thomson held New York's sputtering offense to three hits, leading Texas to a victory Sunday that completed its first three-game sweep at Yankee Stadium.

Thomson (3-4) gave up doubles to Alfonso Soriano in the first and third innings, and to Hideki Matsui in the sixth, winning for the first time since April 29.

It was Thomson's eighth complete game, his second this season, and the lowest-hit complete game of his career.

Juan Gonzalez hit a go-ahead, two-run homer off Mike Mussina (7-2), who lost his second straight start after winning his first seven. The Rangers have won three straight, matching their longest winning streak this season.

New York has lost six of seven and is 9-13 after an 18-3 start. The Yankees have dropped seven of their past eight games at home and were swept in the Bronx for the first time since Seattle took three games from May 3-5, 2002.

## Red Sox 5, Angels 3

BOSTON — John Burkett won for the first time in eight starts and Jason Varitek had two RBIs as Boston moved into a first-place tie with the New York Yankees in the AL East by beating Anaheim.

Manny Ramirez homered and Bill Mueller had three hits for the Red Sox, who have a share of first place for the first time since June 27, 2002. Boston begins a three-game series against the Yankees at Fenway Park on Monday night.

Boston's Nomar Garciaparra went 2-for-4 to extend his hitting streak to 19 games, the longest current streak in the majors.

Boston took a 4-0 lead in the second inning against John Lackey (2-4) and never trailed, avoiding a three-game sweep by the World Series champions.

Burkett (2-2) allowed one run and seven hits in seven innings to win for the first time since his first start of the season, April 4 against Baltimore.

## American League

### Twins 3, White Sox 2

MINNEAPOLIS — Tom Gordon's wild pitch and shortstop Jose Valentin's throwing error let Minnesota score twice in the eighth inning, and the Twins rallied past Chicago for a three-game sweep.

Minnesota moved into first place all alone for the first time this season. The AL Central champion Twins took a one-half game lead over Kansas City.

The White Sox lost their eighth in a row at the Metrodome.

LaTroy Hawkins (3-0) pitched 1⅓ innings for the victory. Eddie Guardado pitched the ninth for his 10th save in 10 opportunities.

Gordon (2-3) took the loss.

### Blue Jays 4, Royals 3

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Josh Phelps hit a three-run homer to lift Toronto over Kansas City, completing a sweep of the three-game series.

The slumping Royals dropped into second place behind Minnesota in the AL Central. Kansas City has lost 15 of 23 after starting the season 16-3. The Blue Jays, who have won 12 of 16, are 22-22.

Tanyon Sturtze (4-4), who made his first relief appearance since May 2, 2001, with Tampa Bay, earned the victory.

Cliff Politte allowed Carlos Beltran's first career pinch-hit homer, with two outs in the ninth, but got Desi Relaford to foul out for his sixth save in eight opportunities.

### Athletics 8, Indians 5

CLEVELAND — Eric Byrnes hit a tie-breaking RBI single in a five-run ninth inning against Cleveland closer Danys Baez as Oakland avoided a three-game sweep by beating the Indians.

With the A's trailing 5-3, Erubiel Durazo led off the ninth with a double and scored on Mark Ellis' one-out single.

After a single by Terrence Long, pinch-hitter Chris Singleton tied the game with a single.

Byrnes then hit a single to right-center to give Oakland a 6-5 lead and extend his hitting streak to 10 games.

### Mariners 6, Tigers 2

DETROIT — Mike Maroth became the second pitcher in Detroit history to lose his first nine decisions of the season as Seattle beat the Tigers behind eight strong innings from Joel Pineiro.

Bret Boone, Carlos Guillen and Greg Colbrunn homered for the Mariners, who swept the three-game series.

Maroth gave up six runs and eight hits in five innings to join Ted Gray (1953) as the only Tigers pitchers to start the season 0-9. Heathcliff Slocumb was the last pitcher to lose his first nine decisions of a season, doing it in 1997 with Boston and Seattle.

The major league record for consecutive losses to start a season by a pitcher is 14, by Joe Harris (1906) of the Boston Pilgrims and Matt Keough (1979) of the Oakland Athletics.

### Devil Rays 9, Orioles 8

BALTIMORE — Aubrey Huff doubled in the tiebreaking run in the ninth inning and Travis Lee went 4-for-5 with three RBIs as Tampa Bay beat Baltimore.

By taking two of three from Baltimore, the Devil Rays have won three straight road series for the first time in club history. It's also the first time Tampa Bay has won three straight series since 2001.

Jeff Conine, Deivi Cruz and Melvin Mora homered for the Orioles, who have lost seven of eight.

The Devil Rays snapped a tie with a two-run ninth against Jorge Julio (0-2). Rocco Baldelli hit a one-out single before Huff doubled to center, and Lee followed with an RBI single to right.

Huff had a triple, two doubles and scored three runs.

Mora homered in the ninth against Lance Carter (4-1).

From The Associated Press

## Continued from Page 7

Glavine allowed six hits, including a leadoff homer to Marquis Grissom in the ninth inning. He was replaced by Armando Benitez after Benito Santiago's one-out single in the ninth.

The Giants have lost seven of nine after being held to two runs the past two games against the Mets.

## Dodgers 2, Marlins 1

LOS ANGELES — Hideo Nomo pitched seven strong innings and Alex Cora drove in two runs as Los Angeles completed a three-game sweep of Florida.

Nomo (5-4) allowed one run and five hits to win for the fourth time in his past five decisions. The right-hander has won his past two starts against the Marlins after going 0-8 in his first nine starts against them.

Eric Gagne struck out the side in the ninth for his 15th save of the season, and his 23rd in a row. He saved all three games in the series.

Brad Penny (2-3) took the loss.

## National League continued

### Diamondbacks 8, Pirates 6

PHOENIX — Rookie Brandon Webb shut down Pittsburgh for 7½ innings and Arizona salvaged the final game of their three-game series.

The 24-year-old right-hander, who relies mostly on a nasty sinker, scattered eight hits, struck out six and walked three.

Webb (2-1) allowed three runs. Two of them came on pinch-hitter Reggie Sanders' three-run homer off the first pitch from Eddie Oropesa, who relieved Webb with two outs in the eighth and Arizona leading 7-1.

Arizona pounded former Diamondback Jeff Suppan (4-4) for five runs and nine hits in four innings.

### Reds 6, Brewers 3 (10)

MILWAUKEE — Aaron Boone hit his second homer of the game, connecting in the 10th inning to help Cincinnati beat Milwaukee.

Boone has homered three times in two days. The Reds stopped a three-game losing streak.

Austin Kearns hit an RBI single with two outs in the 10th to put Cincinnati ahead. Boone followed with his 13th homer, a two-run shot to left field off Mike DeJean (1-3).

Scott Sullivan (4-0) pitched a perfect ninth for the victory and Scott Williamson worked the 10th for his 10th save.

### Braves 6, Padres 3

SAN DIEGO — Vinny Castilla homered for the third time in two games and Russ Ortiz won his fifth straight decision to lead Atlanta to the four-game sweep.

The Braves won for the 27th time in their past 32 games to improve to 31-13, the best record in the majors.

Marcus Giles, who was born and raised in San Diego County, drove in Atlanta's first three runs and Chipper Jones hit a solo homer.

The Braves outscored the Padres 39-15 in their first four-game sweep of San Diego since April 4-7, 1994, also in San Diego.

The Padres have lost five straight and 18 of their past 21.

### Phillies 3, Astros 1

HOUSTON — Kevin Millwood threw a six-hitter for his second complete game of the season as Philadelphia beat Houston.

Millwood (6-1) struck out four and walked one. He is 4-0 in his past six starts, including his first career no-hitter on April 27 against San Francisco. He's pitched at least six innings in each of his past six starts and has an ERA of 1.64 in those games.

Pat Burrell had an RBI triple, Jimmy Rollins had an RBI single and David Bell walked with the bases loaded for Philadelphia, which won the season series 4-2. It was the Phillies' first series victory against Houston since 1997.

Philadelphia got all the runs it would need when it scored two runs in the first inning off Houston starter Tim Lincecum (3-3).

From The Associated Press